

LEA HILL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING NOTES - MAY 28, 2008



On May 28 and June 10, 2008 the City of Auburn Mayor and City staff met with residents of Lea Hill Community at Hazelwood Elementary, 11815 SE 304th Street.

Staff in Attendance at May 28: MAYOR PETE LEWIS, LARRY MILLER, KIRSTEN REYNOLDS, LAURA PHILPOT, LEAH DUNSDON, TIFFIN GOODMAN, AMBER MUND, BOB WUOTILA, DON STEPHENS, DENNIS DOWDY AND ELIZABETH CHAMBERLAIN.

Staff in Attendance at June 10: MAYOR PETE LEWIS, LARRY MILLER, DUANNA RICHARDS, KIRSTEN REYNOLDS, LESLIE LEHNHOFF, TIFFIN GOODMAN, AMBER MUND, BOB WUOTILA, DON STEPHENS, KATHLEEN EDMAN, DAN REPP, STACEY BORLAND, ANGELIQUE MOSER, LAURA PHILPOT AND HEATHER BARTLETT.

Community Members in Attendance: AL HURT, ALLAN S. HILL, ARVID J. KOBBEROD, ASTRID LAWG, B. BROXSON, BARBARA MOORE, BETH & COLIN PANG, BEVERLY ROBERTS, BILL JOY, BILL PELOZA, BILL WALKER, BOB & PATTEE BAGGETT, BOB BROWN, BONNIE STENSON, BRIAN COOK, BRIAN HAMILTON, BRIDGETTE & SUSAN FLEMING, CAROL SCOFIELD, CAROL VOLK, CARY & GABRIELLE WRIGHT, CHARLES & MAUREEN SCHUMACHER, CHARLES JACOBY, DAN & BETTY HALLIS, DAN FIRING, DAVE HEUTCHY, DAVID SERLIN, DIXIE & EVEN STROBELT, DON & KAY DAVIS, DOROTHY BREDESON, DOUG & ALYCE BRANDNER, ED MILLEN, ERIC DICKS, FRITZ & ALETHA GILBRETH, G. POLICICHIO, GEORGE FRASIER, GRETE & BOB PFAFF, HARRY SCHNEIDER, HELGA SCOTT, JAMES & FLORENCE STEICHEN, JAMES & MARILYN MENCCI, JANET CHAFFEE, JANICE JOHNSON, JAYNE & PATRICK FLYNN, JEAN CLAMPITT, JEFF MORGAN, JERRY ABLETDINGER, JOE & KATHY RADOSEVIC, JOE ISAECKS, JOHN CAMPBELL, JOHN RAMSEY, JON GAILEY, KAREN ALLISTON, KAREN DINES, KAY & REG EVERSON, KAY FILSON, KELLY PORTMANN, KEVIN & DANIELLE HASSLINGER, KRISTY LOMMEN, LINDA WILSON-HILL, LINDS & FRED RIGERS, LISA GLEASON, MANDY RUTHERFORD, MARGARET & PETER GOROG, MARION & CLAUDE GLAEGO, MELVIN RUGG, MICHAEL LEIGNTY, MIKE DICKSON, NANCY ALEXANDER, NANCY L SMITH, NICKY BRURS, NICKY BRURS, PAT AUSTIN, PAT HORN, PAT LUGBERG, PAT MONTSOMERY, PATRICK GUTTON, PEGGY WRIGHT, PETE BEAUJSAIN, PHYLLIS STAR, RAY BOJARSKI, REX SMITH, RICH LEHMAN, ROGER GILLETTE, RONALD BALMER, ROY TAYLOR, STEPHANIE SHEIN, SUE WEST ABRAMSON, TARA DEWAELE, TERESA & ALBERT TOWNSEND, TINA HANLEY, TRACI DYSART, VICKI & PAUL GRUSZNIOWSKI, WENDY SWANSON & RON FLINK, YONNY & THOMAS DUBLINSKI.

Welcome and Introductions:

Community Services Manager Duanna Richards opened the meeting with a brief outline of the meeting and introductions of City staff and Mayor Pete Lewis. Mayor Lewis introduced Council Member Bill Peloza, present at the June 10th meeting. Mayor Lewis facilitated the audience participation portion of the meeting opening the floor to anyone wanting to discuss issues other than the Transportation Plan. A few opening comments included, but were not limited to:

- 911 – Mayor Lewis informed the residents that Auburn shares ownership of the 911 system, calls go into a dispatch center so residents shouldn't worry about tying up the phone line when making non-emergency calls. Residents were advised to call 911 for any emergency or non-emergency issue such as street lights out, stop lights out, missing stop signs, fireworks, loose dogs, sewer backups, water leaks, etc.
- Taking over annexation areas – The City received approximately \$1.7 million from King County and will receive approximately \$16 million over a ten year period from the State to provide services to the Lea Hill and West Hill annexation areas.
- Schools:
 - Green River Community College - Mayor Lewis stated as far as he knew from the college that there is no intention at this point for Green River to become a four-year College.

- With 23 new housing developments residents were concerned with not having enough room in the schools.
- School district boundaries and zip codes - Mayor Lewis clarified the school district boundaries are separate from the City's boundaries. The latest information from the Post Office about zip code changes was they should be in effect by mid July 2008.

Public Works:

Stop Signs, Traffic Lights and Cameras –

- Traffic lights – requested at the intersection of 132nd and 288th, 304th and 124th. Mayor Lewis explained that a traffic light costs \$250,000 plus all the studies that are required before a light can be put in.
- Intersection on 304th – reports of a blind corner that needs to be cut back for increased safety. Mayor agreed and acknowledged this should be in the Transportation Plan.
- Tax increase concerns – a concerned resident questioned the storm water billing; they thought the taxes were too high. Mayor Lewis responded that prior to annexation City staff compared bills side by side, the differences residents are seeing now come from the fact that the City breaks out all of the bills while the County had some included inside the annual property tax bill.
 - Mayor Lewis addressed another resident's question started from a discussion why infrastructure couldn't all be funded together; segregated funds must be used for specifically designated items and/or work. Traffic lights are currently not connected/networked to each other in the Lea Hill area. The lights are all individually controlled and must be changed by hand; some lights are controlled by the Department of Transportation who change them when they see fit.
- Traffic circles to be installed - several neighborhoods have requested smaller traffic circles to be installed. The Mayor included larger neighborhoods require a traffic study, neighborhoods' get to vote if that is what they would like to see done then it is installed on a temporary basis on a temporary basis.
- Roundabout to be installed - King County will start constructing the roundabout at 304th and 124th in early July.
- Welcome to Auburn sign – between 108th and 277th there is a sign that has been down for a while. Mayor encouraged residents to call 911 if there are signs down, stop lights out, potholes, etc.

Sidewalks, Speed bumps, Curbs and Parking –

- Sidewalks – City Council established a fund some years ago to pay up to 50% of the cost of sidewalks if the majority of property owners formed a Local Improvement District (LID) and agree to have the sidewalks installed on their streets. Sidewalks are the responsibility of the homeowners, and the City of Auburn now requires them on all new developments, but offers the option of an LID to pay for half the cost in previously developed areas lacking sidewalks.
- New bridge – the cost of having another bridge built to get access to Auburn's valley floor was discussed; costs were put at least at \$20 million.
- SE 277th bridge project – built by a partnership of Kent, Auburn and King County; developers in the area paid fees to get part of this bridge built. Developers pay for a majority of transportation routes because their impact.
- Safe walking paths to schools - the City has partnered with the school district to apply for grants to try to ensure there are safe walking paths designed.
- Disabilities – easy access needs to be a community concern.

Speeding –

- Speeding on: 316th, 117th and 112th – people are driving 70-80 mph. Mayor encouraged residents to keep calling when this happens then proceeded to discuss the need for drivers to maintain common courtesy; talking to neighbors can help enforce this overall neighborhood responsibility. City staff will come out to discuss this issue in smaller groups.

Streets -

- Bad street repair - reported on 132nd just between 304th and 312th. Staff will be out to take a look at this report.
- Road infrastructure – roads will be addressed during the planning stages for housing density. One resident asked if there was a preliminary analysis of the road infrastructure available. Staff is still going through boxes of information provided by King County; this information may be available, staff will need to check into this further.
- 277th not finished - there will be more lanes added in the future.

Utilities -

- Condo owners pay \$7,000 a year to maintain their pond; this was thought to be too high.
- Power outages – this started out by a citizen wanting inappropriate trees removed. Mayor Lewis responded that the City cannot do this unless it's a public safety issue. Puget Sound Energy (PSE) does have the authority to remove trees that potentially endanger their utility poles. The City is working with PSE to identify trees needing to be taken down; this effort should help reduce the chance of power outages.

Transportation -

- New collector bus route - the City will be asking for a new collector bus route in the Lea Hill area. Mayor Lewis encouraged residents to contact King County Metro and show support for this. The City has started a new partnership with King County and Metro which already has plans for a shuttle service to start in 2009 in Lakeland Hills.

Code Enforcement Issues:

- Commercial trucks – there was a question asked if eighteen wheeler trucks are allowed to park on the streets. Mayor Lewis responded they are not allowed to park on the streets, then went on to say there are no truck facilities in Auburn because of security issues i.e. drug and prostitution.
- Noise ordinance – there are specific rules in affect 24 hrs. a day, more specifically, limiting loud noise between the hours of 10pm - 6am.
- Dumping - if there are TV's or other large items dumped in the streets residents should call 911. If it is in the street Solid Waste will pick it up.

Police Topics:

- Police - calls are prioritized with threat to life or property first. There are 114 dedicated officers currently on staff and at least six cars to cover the entire city during any one shift.
- More Police present - once the Valley Regional Fire Department (VRFD) was taken out of the City's budget, Council was able to authorize an additional ten officers to be hired.

Planning & Building:

- "Kent Island" - the area belonging to the City of Kent, but inside the Lea Hill area, will be annexed into Auburn once Kent is done developing the area. Kent will collect all the development fees but has agreed to work with Auburn staff to ensure Auburn's development standards are followed. Residents expressed they are having issues with water run off from all the land clearing.

- Keeping up with development - Mayor talked about a few up and coming things, including, but not limited to:
 - The Valley Six drive-in property - there will be 500,000-700,000 sq. ft. for new mixed-use development.
 - A new Super Wal-Mart location - next to the Movie Theaters at the SuperMall; six months after it is completed the old Wal-Mart building must be converted or demolished.
 - The Hospital parking garage - permits are scheduled to come in by July 1st.
 - The old “tavern block” – these buildings will be torn down to make way for the new City Annex building.
 - Auburn Junction - four blocks south of City Hall are being planned for mixed use development.
- 23 new developments - Auburn is required to allow projects previously approved and permitted by King County prior to the annexation.
- Grocery stores and small business - there will be a small grocery store built in the “Kent Island” area. There is an area set aside for commercial growth. Mayor Lewis mentioned that when City staff came out originally prior to the annexation a large majority of people voiced they did not want ANY commercial development.
- North area of Lea Hill – residents feel left out of the Auburn community.
- New address – latest update from the Post Office was this will happen in July 2008.
- Cluster development - off 124th there are houses on one-acre lots being developed closer together but maintaining the one-acre lot requirement, this is called clustered.
- Growth Management Act – pushing growth to the east of the Hwy. Mayor talked about the requirements of the Growth Management Act. The City is required to allow density. The Mayor asked the audience to let us know where they would like to see density happen, i.e. on the hills or on the valley floor.
- Approved plans for building - builders have five years to start and complete permitted projects.
- Retention ponds – one goal of the City is to retrofit storm ponds by turning them into more natural environments that could possibly be used as community open space. Most HOA’s in the Lea Hill area are responsible for maintaining their retention ponds. If they are not being maintained residents should call Code Enforcement and/or Public Works to report. The City will be taking over a few of the retention ponds previously being taken care of by King County. There were concerns some of these ponds are not fenced which could be dangerous.

Parks:

- Long-range plan for open spaces - Mayor Lewis talked about how Auburn already took over the parks in the Lea Hill area prior to the annexation. The City has plans for the Jacobson Tree Farm to become a regional park in the near future.

In Closing:

- Community Services Manager Duanna Richards invited residents to call or e-mail the Community Services Team if they have any questions or concerns and aren’t sure who to call at the City. Contact information for the Community Services Division is: 253-931-3099 or drichards@auburnwa.gov.
- Transportation Planner Tiffin Goodman spoke about the long range Transportation Plan; the Plan identifies future needs out to 2030 for motorized and non-motorized routes. There will be a total of three community meetings and one open house to finalize the Transportation Plan; the open house will be held in August at City Hall. Ms. Goodman announced there were on-line surveys available to residents to provide comments. The survey deadline will be towards the end of June. A public hearing will be held at a regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting in the fall; City Council will look at adopting the proposed Transportation Plan by the end of the 2008.